Testimony for Public Hearing Public Health Committee March 16, 2015

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HB No. 6797. Public Health Committee. An Act Concerning the practice of Naturopathy.

Statement of Purpose: To modernize the scope of practice for naturopaths by adding prescriptive authority

Good Afternoon Public Health Committee Members. My name is Eric Secor and I am m currently the Associate Medical Director for Integrative Medicine within the Cancer Institute at Hartford Hospital and Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine at the University of Connecticut Health Center. I have been active in the naturopathic and integrative medicine communities for over 20 years. I have worked and/or consulted on projects for: the National Institutes for Health, MIT, Duke, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, University of Kansas Medical Center, Hospital for Special Care, St Francis Hospital, Hartford Hospital, Manchester Hospital, Greenwich Hospital, The UConn Health Center, Yale and the CT Dept of Public Health. As one of the few individuals with both clinical (ND, MS, LAc) and public health (MPH, PhD from UConn) degrees, I have a unique perspective an intimate knowledge of both the practice of Naturopathy and its numerous positive impacts on Public Health.

I would submit that the state of CT should continue to lead national efforts in Public Health and move to modernize the scope of practice for naturopaths. I am a firm believer and advocate of continued education. Therefore, modernizing this act and mandating continuing education units dedicated towards pharmacy and ND prescriptive authority will help to guarantee the continued safety of CT's Naturopathic practice.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Eric R. Secor Jr.

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